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E. Clements, University of Minnesota, as early as possible.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HENRY F. OSBORN, of Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History, and Professor E. B. Wilson, of Columbia University, have been elected corresponding members of the Munich Academy of Sciences.

PRINCIPAL PETERSON, of McGill University, has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, president of the Royal Society, has received the doctorate of laws from the University of Liverpool.

THE Silliman lectures at Yale University, which, as already announced, will be given by Professor Svante Arrhenius, of Stockholm, are now announced for April, 1911.

WE learn from *Nature* that prior to the anniversary meeting of the Mineralogical Society in the Geological Society's rooms at Burlington House on November 15, Dr. Lazarus Fletcher, F.R.S., was presented with his portrait, painted by Mr. Gerald Festus Kelly, in recognition of the services he had rendered to the society during the past quarter of a century. The presentation was made by Professor W. J. Lewis, F.R.S., on behalf of the members and other subscribers. For three years, 1885-88, Dr. Fletcher was president, and for twenty-one years, 1888-1909, general secretary, of the society. He resigned the secretaryship upon his appointment as director of the Natural History Museum.

THE Royal Geological Society of Cornwall at its annual meeting at Penzance, awarded to Dr. George J. Hinde, F.R.S., the Bolitho gold medal.

DR. CHARLES K. MILLS, professor of neurology, and Dr. W. G. Spiller, professor of neuropathology at the University of Pennsylvania, have been elected corresponding members of the Gesellschaft der Deutschen Nervenärzten.

MR. R. N. LYNE, has been appointed director of the department of agriculture recently established in Portuguese East Africa. Mr. Lyne has been for fourteen years director of agriculture for Zanzibar.

DR. WILLIAM AUSTIN CANNON, of the Desert Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona, is spending the year abroad. In the summer he visited several of the leading botanical gardens in Europe and now (November) is making observations on the desert flora in the vicinity of Ghardaia, southern Algeria. He plans visiting the Egyptian deserts between Wady Halfa and Berber, early in 1911. His European address is 17, Marché aux Herbes, Bruges, Belgium.

PROFESSOR W. A. HENRY, formerly dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, and now emeritus professor of agriculture, will sail shortly for Europe where he will investigate European agriculture and prepare a series of articles on country life in foreign countries.

AT the annual general meeting of the London Mathematical Society, held on November 11, the following were, as we learn from *Nature*, elected to be the council and officers for the session 1910-11 (the names of members not on the retiring council are printed in italic type): *President*, Dr. H. F. Baker, F.R.S.; *vice-presidents*, Mr. J. E. Campbell, F.R.S., Major P. A. MacMahon, F.R.S., Sir William Niven, K.C.B., F.R.S.; *treasurer*, Sir Joseph Larmor, F.R.S.; *secretaries*, Professor A. E. H. Love, F.R.S., Mr. J. H. Grace, F.R.S.; *other members of the council*, Mr. G. T. Bennett, Dr. T. J. I'A. Bromwich, F.R.S., Dr. W. Burnside, F.R.S., Mr. E. Cunningham, Mr. A. L. Dixon, Dr. L. N. G. Filon, Dr. E. W. Hobson, F.R.S., *Professor H. M. Macdonald, F.R.S.*, and Dr. A. E. Western.

THE Huxley lecture at the University of Birmingham was delivered on November 23 by Professor Percy Gardner, professor of classical archeology in the University of Oxford. The subject of the address was "Rationalism and Science in relation to Social Movements."

THE Herbert Spencer lecture at Oxford on "Evolution, Darwinian and Spencerian," will be delivered by Professor R. Meldola, F.R.S., on December 8.

At the University of Bristol a course of five lectures on "Aviation" has been arranged. The selected lecturers are Professor W. Morgan, Mr. A. R. Low, Mr. E. S. Bruce, Mr. L. Blin Desbleds and Mr. Joseph Clarkson.

PROFESSOR OSLER, of Oxford, delivered a lecture, on November 17, in the theater of the medical schools, Cambridge, on "Medical Education in France."

At the Royal Institute of Public Health, London, on November 7, Dr. C. Levaditi, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, gave a lecture on "The Mechanism of Phagocytosis and the Importance of the Phagocytes in Immunity." It was explained that up to the present it had been believed that the whole process was a vital one in which a fight took place between the living leucocyte, on the one hand, and the living bacteria, on the other. According to a report in the London *Times* the new experiments of the lecturer in the Institut Pasteur had demonstrated for the first time that in the earliest and important phase of phagocytosis the rôle of the leucocyte is an entirely passive one, the process of attachment of the microorganisms being due to physico-chemical processes. The lecture was illustrated by a series of cinematograph films prepared from Dr. Levaditi's preparations in collaboration with M. Comandon, of Pathé Frères. Another demonstration of these and other films, illustrating problems in bacteriology, was given at St. Thomas's Hospital on November 9.

THE Botanical Club of the University of Vermont celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Asa Gray in the rooms of the botanical department. The speakers announced were Dr. C. G. Pringle, "Reminiscences of My Work with Dr. Gray"; Professor George P. Burns, "The Text-books of Gray and their Influence on Botanical Teaching"; Professor B. F. Lutman, "The Development of Gray's Work Since His Death." Dr. Pringle, who was a life-long friend of

Gray and his favorite collector, was unable to be present and will give his paper at the next meeting of the club.

THE next meeting of the American Association of Anatomists will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., on December 28-30. *President*: Professor George A. Piersol, University of Pennsylvania; *secretary-treasurer*: Professor G. Carl Huber, Ann Arbor, Mich.

By the will of Mrs. Mary Bacon, widow of Dr. William T. Bacon, Hartford, \$100,000 is devised to the Hartford Medical Society.

WE learn from *Nature* that Mrs. Tyndall has presented to the Royal Institution two Nicol's prisms, constructed for the lectures on light given by Dr. Tyndall in America in 1872, and used by him subsequently in his researches and lectures; also two pieces of rocksalt, the remains of a large block given to Dr. Tyndall by the king of Württemberg in 1867.

THE first chapter meeting of the year of the Omega Chapter of the Sigma Xi of the Ohio State University, was held on Wednesday evening, November 16. Professor R. C. Purdy spoke on "Fluxes and Fusions." The ceramics department had on exhibition a plaster cast showing some new work on the coefficient of expansion of a composition of varying amounts of kaolin, feldspar and quartz. Professor A. Dachnowski presented an investigation on "The Diseases of Peat and Muck Soils," and showed the effect of filtering bog waters through quartz upon plant growth. After the program proper the society devoted itself to an inspection of a large display of scientific apparatus collected from the various departments represented in the society. A social hour followed. The members of the local chapter of Phi Beta Kappa were the guests of the evening.

THE annual high school conference closed a three days session at the University of Illinois, on Saturday, November 19. This conference, which was the seventh of the present series, was attended by about seven hundred and eighty instructors from the high schools,

colleges, universities and normal schools of the state. The program consisted of three general sessions and twelve section meetings. At the general session on Friday afternoon an address was given by Professor E. C. Elliot, of the University of Wisconsin, on "Needed readjustments in the high school curriculum"; on Saturday Professor George B. Aiton, state high school Inspector for Minnesota, spoke on "State aid to high schools in Minnesota and how it works." This high school conference is a working conference. Its purpose is working out year by year and through a series of years a well defined plan. The first conference of the series was held in February, 1905, with an attendance of seventy-five. The two succeeding sessions had fewer than one hundred; the fourth conference, two hundred; the fifth, four hundred; the sixth, six hundred; and the present nearly eight hundred. The first conference had but three groups or sections—those for the study of English, biology and the physical sciences. The present conference included, besides the general sessions, twelve distinct sections.

Dr. G. B. GORDON, director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, has arranged a series of lectures on the "History of Mankind," which will be given on Saturday afternoons. The arrangements so far made are as follows: December 3, Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, of Yale, "The Antiquity of Man in Europe"; January 7, F. F. Ogilvie, of Cairo, Egypt, "The Pyramids of Gizeh"; January 14, Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, of Harvard, "Picture Writing and the Beginnings of the Alphabet"; January 21, Miss Edith H. Hall, of Mt. Holyoke College, "Ancient Crete and the Pre-Greek Civilization of the Ægean"; January 28, Dr. Albert Lecoq, director of the German expedition to Turkestan, "The Ancient Civilization of Turkestan"; February 4, Dr. W. Max Müller, "The Ancient Egyptians"; February 18, Miss Stone, of the British School at Athens, "The Ancient Greeks and their Mythology"; February 25, Miss Stone, "The Acropolis of Athens"; March 4, Dr. Edward Sapir, ethnologist in charge of the Geological Survey of Canada, "The

Origin of Spoken Languages"; March 11, Dr. Franz Boas, of Columbia, "Environment as a Cause of Variations in Man's Physical Structure"; March 18, Dr. A. A. Goldenweiser, of Columbia, "The Institution of Totemism."

A COURSE of six popular lectures on Natural History and Travel are being given in the Arsenal Auditorium, Springfield, Ill., on Friday evenings at eight o'clock under the auspices of the Illinois State Museum of Natural History as follows:

November 11—"How the Earth is known to be Millions of Years Old," Wm. M. Davis, Ph.D., professor of geology, Harvard University, Boston.

November 18—"An Ascent of Mt. Blanc," A. R. Crook, Ph.D., curator of the Illinois State Museum, Springfield.

November 25—"Botanizing in the Tropics," William Trelease, LL.D., director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

December 2—"Big Game of Alaska," Wilfred H. Osgood, assistant curator of mammalogy and ornithology, Field Museum, Chicago.

December 9—"Photographic Revelations in Astronomy," Edward E. Barnard, LL.D., professor of practical astronomy, Chicago, and astronomer of the Yerkes Observatory.

December 16—"Yellowstone National Park," Charles Truax, Truax, Greene and Company, Chicago.

THE *Journal Officiel* has published the statistics of the population of France for the first six months of 1910. The results, quoted in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, are less unfavorable than those of the corresponding six months of the previous year. While in the first six months of 1909 an excess of 28,203 deaths was recorded, during the first six months of 1910 there was an excess of 21,189 births. The births have not increased appreciably. The birth-rate still remains low: 399,669 in 1910 in place of 398,710 in 1909. But the deaths have decreased considerably: 378,480 instead of 426,913. As for marriages, their number has remained stationary: 156,761 in place of 156,258; and the divorces continue to increase: 6,383 against 6,148. As for the Department of Seine, during the first six months of the present year, 37,319 births, 38,-

567 deaths, 20,389 marriages and 1,365 divorces have been recorded.

A PARTY of about fifty railroad men visited the college of engineering of the University of Illinois on Wednesday, November 9. The party was composed of executive and engineering officers of the railroads having headquarters in Chicago. The visit was made upon the invitation of Dean W. F. M. Goss. Its object was the inspection of the buildings and equipment of the college of engineering, and a discussion of the possibility of a closer educational alliance between the railroad service and the university. After a trip of inspection over the plant of the college of engineering, an informal conference was held between the railroad officials and the heads of departments of the college. Resolutions were passed by the visiting party expressing their appreciation of the need of the college for ampler facilities and more complete equipment, especially along the lines of railway and transportation engineering.

UNDER the provisions of the Indian Museum act of 1910, the ethnological and art collections have been separated from those of economic products, and in his last report of the museum as originally constituted, the curator, Mr. I. H. Burkill, has, says *Nature*, given a useful account of its past history and present condition. The museum was first started by the Asiatic Society in 1814, the first donor being the Countess of Loudoun. The collections have passed through many vicissitudes, due to the absence of suitable accommodation. Under the present scheme of reorganization they have at last been placed upon a satisfactory footing. The ethnological gallery now contains about 11,000 exhibits, but it still lacks a proper descriptive catalogue, which can be prepared only by a competent ethnologist. The progress of the art series has been stimulated by the patronage of Lord Curzon, who provided an annual state grant of about £400 for the purchase of specimens. Most of the older economical exhibits have perished, but these are being gradually replaced. These collections are now being arranged in suitable galleries.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At the November meeting of the Yale Corporation at the university, announcement was made of an anonymous gift of \$15,000, the interest of which is to be used as an emergency loan fund in the interest of instructors and assistant professors of the university. Announcement was also made of the receipt of \$30,000 of a fund of \$50,000 left to the university by the late J. Burnett Collins, of Fort Worth, Texas; of the receipt of \$20,000 from Newton Barney, of Farmington, Conn., toward the fund for the professorship of education, and the receipt of a like amount from the family of the late John H. Whittemore, of Naugatuck as a memorial gift.

THE University of Vermont has just received \$25,000 by the will of Lewis L. Coburn, a graduate of the class of 1859.

A VIVARIUM for botany and zoology is being constructed at Dartmouth College. It will be a glass and concrete structure, forty-three feet long. Part of the building will be devoted to the experimental work of a new course in physiological botany. The interior fixtures will consist of double rows of concrete tables for the plants, and floor tanks with running water for plants and animals. The building will probably be ready for use by the first of next semester.

THE dean of Northwestern University Medical School announces that hereafter the institution will require two years of collegiate work for admission instead of one year as heretofore.

DR. J. S. THOMSON has been appointed demonstrator in zoology at the University of Manchester in succession to Dr. W. D. Henderson, appointed lecturer in zoology in the University of Bristol.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### ROMANTIC NOMENCLATURE

THE difference between the name *quintus* and the numeral 5 as a partial designation for a species excites my friend, Professor Cockrell, to considerable exaggeration.<sup>1</sup> Indeed,

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE for September 30, p. 428.